

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 SP-02 INR-07 PRS-01  
DHA-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 L-03 H-01 A-01 MC-02 EB-07  
ARAE-00 /060 W

-----162002Z 098334 /61

O 161603Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3509

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 2867

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MASS, NU

SUBJECT: SOMOZA REQUESTS CLARIFICATION FROM DEPARTMENT

REF: (A) MANAGUA 2800; (B) MANAGUA 2346; (C) MANAGUA 2357

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SOMOZA IS UNHAPPY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE VOTE WENT AGAINST NICARAGUA, SAYS HIS SOURCES INDICATE DEPARTMENT MADE NO EFFORT WITH COMMITTEE TO INFLUENCE THE VOTE, AND FEELS HE HAS BEEN LET DOWN. HE ALSO CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT SMALL ARMS SALE EMBARGO.

1. PRESIDENT SOMOZA CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 15 TO DISCUSS THE PREVIOUS DAY'S VOTE IN THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CUTTING OFF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA. HE SAID HE WAS, OF COURSE, UNHAPPY WITH THE OUTCOME, BUT THAT HIS FRIENDS HAD FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT AND IN A CERTAIN SENSE THE LOSS BY ONE VOTE WAS A MORAL VICTORY AND A HOPEFUL SIGN FOR FUTURE VOTES ON THIS ISSUE. HE SAID HE WAS EXTREMELY UNHAPPY, HOWEVER, OVER WHAT HE CALLED THE LACK OF LOBBYING AGAINST THE CUT-OFF BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT AMONG MEMBERS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

2. HE SAID AMBASSADOR THEBERGE HAD TOLD HIM SOME WEEKS AGO THAT THE

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DEPARTMENT WOULD LOBBY THE ENTIRE COMMITTEE AGAINST THE CUT-OFF, I.E. IN SUPPORT OF WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS NICARAGUA'S POSITION, BUT THAT HIS (SOMOZA'S) INFORMATION WAS THAT NO LOBBYING WAS DONE BY THE DEPARTMENT. HE SPECIFICALLY CITED REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN L'BRIEN (PRESUMABLY GEORGE O'BRIEN OF ILLINOIS) WHO HAD NOT HEARD ANYTHING FROM THE DEPARTMENT, CALLED SEVERAL STATE OFFICES TO GET ITS POSITION ON THE NICARAGUA CUT-OFF ISSUE, AND WAS NOT SATISFIED

WITH THE RESPONSE HE RECEIVED. SOMOZA SAID THAT HAD HIS WON PEOPLE NOT LOBBIED EXTENSIVELY, THE VOTE WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE LIKE 35-3 AGAINST NICARAGUA THAN THE ONE VOTE DIFFERENCE. HE REPEATED HIS UNHAPPINESS OVER WHAT HE SAYS WAS HAVING BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD LOBBY AGAINST MILITARY AID CUT-OFF AND THEN BEING TOLD BY HIS FRIENDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT CONTACT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON THE ISSUE. HE ASKED THAT I CONVEY HIS UNHAPPINESS TO THE DEPARTMENT AND REQUEST A CLEAR-CUT DEPARTMENT POSITION ON THIS ISSUE AS THE LEGISLATION PROCEEDS TO THE HOUSE FLOOR AND ON TO THE SENATE.

3. HE THEN TALKED A FEW MINUTES ABOUT THE PREVIOUS VOTE AT THE LONG APPROPRIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE ON MAY 24 WHICH WENT 5-4 IN FAVOR OF CUTTING OFF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA. HE SAID THAT CONGREEMAN STOKES (D/OHIO) WAS PREPARED TO VOTE AGAINST CUTTING MILITARY ASSISTANCE, BUT WAS CALLED TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR A MEEING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AT THE TIME OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE SESSION. HE SAID THAT WHEN STOKES RETURNED AND FOUND OUT THAT THE VOTE HAD BEEN 5-4 HE ASKED FOR A NEW VOTE TO BE TAKEN IN HIS PRESENCE,

BUT SAID THAT THE MAJORITY OF FIVE REFUSED TO GRANT HIM THIS COURESY. A 5-5 VOTE AT THE SUB-COMMITTEE LEVEL WOULD HAVE KILLED THE ENTIRE ISSUE FOR THIS YEAR'S SESSION, ACCORDING TO SOMOZA.

4. SOMOZA ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE EMBARGO ON SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION FOR NICARAGUA AND SAID THAT HE LEARNED ONLY YESTERDAY THAT SOME SMALL ARMS SHIPMENTS HAD BEEN HELD UP AS MUCH AS FOUR MONTHS PENDING AN EXPORT LICENSE AND THAT THIS DISTURBED HIM. I TOLD HIM THAT WE WWERE AWAITING A CLARIFICATION ON OUR ARMS EXPORT CONFIDENTIAL

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POLICY TO NICARAGUA AND EXPECTED ONE MOMENTARILY. I ASSURED HIM THAT I WOULD NOTIFY HIM AS SOON AS WE HAD HEARD FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

5. SOMOZA ALSO ASKED FOR MY VIEWS ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE CUT-OFF SHOULD IT REMAIN IN THE FINAL LEGISLATION. I SAID THAT WE WERE STUDYING THAT ISSUE NOW, AS I WAS SURE HE WAS ALSO, AND THAT WE MIGHT WANT TO EXCHANGE IMPRESSIONS AT SOME FUTURE DATE. HE SAID IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT HE MIGHT BE FORCED TO SEEK MILITARY TRAINING IN A THIRD COUNTRY AND INFORMALLY INQUIRED AS TO WHAT THE POSSIBILITIES MIGHT BE OF PURCHASING MILITARY TRAINING SHOULD THERE BE A CUT-OFF. I SAID I DID NOT KNOW IF THERE WERE ANY PRECEDENTS FOR SUCH PURCHASE BUT WOULD INQUIRE AND LET HIM KNOW.

6. COMMENT: SOMOZA, WHILE UNHAPPY WITH THE CURRENT STATUS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION, SEEMED MORE UNHAPPY OVER NOT UNDERSTANDING THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS CONGRESS ON THIS ISSUE. I CITED THE BRAY STATEMENT TO THE LONG SUB-COMMITTEE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, BUT HE ASKED REPEATEDLY THAT I SEEK A CURRENT CLARIFICATION

FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON THIS MATTER.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: CLARIFICATION IS REQUESTED RE DEPARTMENT'S  
ACTIONS VIS-A-VIS CONGRESS PRIOR TO COMMITTEE VOTE ESPECIALLY  
IN REGARD TO REFTEL A ON ARMS SALES TO GON FOR COMMERCIAL RESALE  
(REFTELS B & C).  
RUBENSTEIN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Subject:** SOMOZA REQUESTS CLARIFICATION FROM DEPARTMENT  
**TAGS:** MASS, NU, US  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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